

Distinguished Service Awards Announced

An appellate court justice, an Administrative Office of the Courts' regional director and former court executive officer, and a Silicon Valley attorney were honored with this year's 2001 Distinguished Service Awards, the highest Judicial Council honor for those who demonstrate extraordinary leadership and make significant contributions to the administration of justice in California.

The Judicial Council announced the award recipients at its December 18 meeting. Chief Justice Ronald M. George will present the awards (now in their ninth year) during the 2002 California Judicial Administration Conference (CJAC), which takes place January 30 through February 1 in San Francisco.

The recipients of the 2001 Distinguished Service Awards follow.

JURIST OF THE YEAR AWARD

Administrative Presiding Justice Daniel J. Kremer of the Court of Appeal, Fourth Appellate District, is the recipient of the Jurist of the Year Award.

Justice Kremer was recognized with the award for his dedicated work and leadership in identifying and addressing current and future needs for the

state's court facilities. He has been active in shaping court policy on this issue, chairing numerous Judicial Council committees. In 1997, he became chair of the Task Force on Court Facilities, which was charged with the task of developing guidelines for the construction of court facilities and making recommendations to the Legislature and the Governor concerning the future responsibility for court buildings. Justice Kremer helped to develop consensus among the 18 task force members, who represented courts, counties, and the state. The council unanimously approved the task force's final report, which was released on October 1, 2001.

During his 37-year legal career, Justice Kremer has served as a deputy attorney general for the California Attorney General's Office, head of the Attorney General's San Diego office criminal division, and chief assistant attorney general in charge of the Attorney General's criminal division statewide. He became a justice of the Court of Appeal in July 1985, after serving as a judge of the Superior Court of San Diego County for two years.

JUDICIAL ADMINISTRATION AWARD

Michael M. Roddy, Regional

Administrative Director, Northern/Central Region, for the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), was selected as the recipient of the Judicial Administration Award for his contributions to statewide court administration. Mr. Roddy was recognized, in part, for his efforts to improve the jury and probation systems. He served on the Blue Ribbon Commission on Jury System Improvement and currently serves on the Probation Services Task Force.

Mr. Roddy is a past member of the Judicial Council's Court Executives Advisory Committee, the Education Committee of the Trial Court Presiding Judges and Court Executives Advisory Committees, the Trial Court Budget Commission, the Court Technology Advisory Committee, and the Task Force on Jury System Improvements.

Before joining the AOC last July, Mr. Roddy served as the executive officer of the unified Superior Court of Sacramento County starting in 1998 and oversaw the consolidated Sacramento Superior and Municipal Courts from 1994 to 1998. Before that (1988-1994), he served as assistant executive officer of the Superior Court of San Diego County.

BERNARD E. WITKIN AWARD

Attorney **William A. Fenwick** is the recipient of the Bernard E. Witkin Award, which is named for the renowned legal scholar and recognizes individuals who are not current members of the

judiciary but who champion court issues.

Drawing upon his extensive experience in technology law, Mr. Fenwick has been instrumental in leading the courts into the 21st century. In 1990, he served on the Commission on the Future of the Courts and coauthored a report on the use of technology in the courts. Out of the report's recommendations grew the Court Technology Task Force, which subsequently evolved into the Court Technology Advisory Committee in 1992. The advisory committee, of which Mr. Fenwick is a member, is charged with directing technology initiatives throughout the state judiciary.

Mr. Fenwick, a founding partner of Fenwick & West, LLP in Palo Alto, is recognized for helping to make technology an integral component of judicial administration and an everyday tool of judges, enabling them to carry out their mission of dispensing justice more effectively and efficiently. ■



Administrative Presiding Justice Daniel J. Kremer



Michael M. Roddy



William A. Fenwick

CJER Education Committees

There are 29 CJER education committees, and all but one are appointed by the CJER Governing Committee. Administrative Director of the Courts William C. Vickrey appoints the CJAC (California Judicial Administration Conference) Planning Committee, which is not a curriculum-based education committee. The committees also include liaisons from other divisions of the AOC and from Judicial Council advisory committees. Following is a list of the education committees.

- Appellate Judicial Attorneys Education Committee
- Appellate Justices Education Committee
- Appellate Staff Education Committee
- California Judges Benchguides Publication Committee
- California Judicial Administration Conference Planning Committee
- Civil Law Education Committee
- Civil Proceedings Benchbooks Publication Committee
- Continuing Judicial Studies Education Committee
- Court Security and Extremist Groups Education Committee
- Court Staff Education Committee
- Criminal Law Education Committee
- Distance Education Committee
- Domestic Violence Planning Committee
- Drug Courts Education Committee
- Fairness Education Committee
- Family Law Education Committee
- Genetics Conference Planning Committee
- Judicial Technology Education Committee
- Juvenile Law Education Committee
- Managers and Supervisors Education Committee
- New Judge Education Committee
- Presiding Judges and Court Executives Education Committee
- Probate and Mental Health Education Committee
- Qualifying Ethics Education Committee
- Retired Judges Education Committee
- Rural Courts Education Committee
- Statewide Conference on Eliminating Racial and Ethnic Bias in the Courts Planning Committee
- Techguide for California Courts Publication Committee
- Trial Court Judicial Attorneys Education Committee

Judicial Education

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hosted a conference in June 2000 for the chairs and vice-chairs of the education committees to introduce them to the curriculum development process. In July of this year, the governing committee again sponsored a meeting of the committee chairs and vice-chairs. After working for more than a year on the new curriculum, the group discussed their experiences, including the collaborative process, time commitments, and innovative educational delivery options.

The July conference was led by Superior Court of Los Angeles County Judge Irma J. Brown, former chair of the CJER Governing Committee; Superior Court of Orange County Judge B. Tam Nomoto Schumann, former vice-chair and current chair of the CJER Governing Committee; and Ms. Thorson. In addition, many of the participants made presentations about their committees' work and the process, including Superior Court of Los Angeles County Judge Tricia Ann Bigelow, chair of CJER's Criminal Law Education Committee, and Superior Court of Alameda County Judge Ken M. Kawaichi, chair of CJER's Fairness Education Committee.

"Developing curriculum is difficult," says Judge Bigelow. "Most of us were new to this kind of planning and first needed to buy in to the process. We would not have been able to accomplish this task without the enthusiastic participation of judiciary experts from around the state."

"We were able to recruit very knowledgeable committee members, but the challenge was figuring out how the process was going to work," says Judge Kawaichi. "But once we got going, all of us felt it was a worthy effort. This process allowed us to focus on the learner and his or her needs rather than on the presenter."

NEXT STEPS

Many of the education committees are still putting the final touches on their base curriculums, a step that needs to be completed before they begin developing education designs and start thinking about delivery vehicles. However, different committees are at varying phases of the process.

Included in CJER's plans for this educational development effort are broadcasts for court staff orientations, especially for smaller counties without their own orientation programs; educational broadcasts specifically targeted to appellate justices;

and online education via the Serranus Web site, which is already providing information on subjects such as the implementation of Proposition 36.

"California is the only state that will have this type of curriculum-based educational model for its judiciary," adds Ms. Thorson. "Most other states just have an approved list of topics, but not the complete curriculum design we will have. Once we have the resources in place, faculty will be able to draw from existing curriculum instead of re-creating content for each new presentation."

CJER will be sending out applications in January for the upcoming vacant positions on its education committees and will be accepting applications in February and March. Committees are composed of judges, commissioners, referees, and court administrators and staff—the new members will be appointed for three-year terms beginning in July. The CJER Governing Committee is scheduled to announce the new appointments by May.

For more information on the education committees, contact Robert Lowney, 415-865-7833; e-mail: bob.lowney@jud.ca.gov. ■

Kleps Awards Honor Court Programs

The Judicial Council on December 18 announced the recipients of the 2001 Ralph N. Kleps Awards for Improvement in the Administration of the Courts. The winners were selected from a field of 59 nominees by the California Judicial Administration Conference (CJAC) Planning Committee. Awards will be formally presented at that conference, scheduled for January 30 through February 1 in San Francisco.

The annual awards are given in five categories defined by the number of authorized judicial positions (AJPs) in a county court system. Created in 1991 in honor of Ralph N. Kleps, the first administrative director of the California courts, the awards recognize and honor the contributions made by individual courts to the administration of justice.

Programs nominated for Kleps awards are judged on several criteria: (1) The program improves the administration of the courts and reflects the intent of at least one of the goals of the Judicial Council's Long-Range Strategic Plan (access, fairness, and diversity; independence and accountability; modernization of management and administration; quality of justice and service to the public; education; and technology); (2) the activity is innovative; (3) the program is transferable to other courts; and (4) the program must have been in operation for at least one year.

Descriptions of the winning programs follow.

2001 KLEPS AWARD WINNERS

Category 1: Courts With 0-4.9 AJPs

No winners selected.

Category 2: Courts With 5-14.9 AJPs

Unified Family In-Court Clinician Superior Court of Yolo County

Since June 2000, families in Yolo County have had the benefit of a family in-court clinician, a therapist in private practice who works with the court to help children who need mental health services due to the issues that have brought their families into court. The Yolo County Department of Alcohol, Drug, and Mental Health Services established the program through grant funding from Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and CalWORKS. Recognizing the need to provide therapeutic support to low-income families appearing in court, the clinician program addresses the counseling needs of the high percentage of "Welfare to Work" families. Since the program's inception, the court has referred a total of 107 families for services.

● Contact: Donna M. Petre, Co-Presiding Judge of the Unified Family Court, 530-666-8610.

Appellate Court Outreach Program Court of Appeal, Third Appellate District

The jurisdiction of the Court of Appeal, Third Appellate District includes 23 counties and covers the largest geographic area of all the appellate districts. In order to enhance access to the court for those residing outside of Sacramento County, where the courtroom is located, and to effectively educate the residents of outlying counties regarding the appellate process, the court schedules two-day programs at local high schools. On the first day, justices hold a question and answer session with students and teachers, followed by an evening event hosted by the local bar association where justices and court staff answer questions about court operations. During the second day, a panel of justices conducts oral argument in actual cases at a local high school, with students, teachers, and the general public in attendance. Since its inception in April 2000, four sessions have been held in high schools in Butte, Nevada, Shasta, and Yolo Counties.

● Contact: Deena C. Fawcett, Clerk/Administrator, 916-653-0187.

Category 3: Courts With 15-49.9 AJPs

Children, Courts, and Arts Project Superior Court of Contra Costa County

Since 1999, the family and juvenile court facilities in Contra Costa County have featured paintings, drawings, and written descriptions created by children who are the subjects of court proceedings. There are 75 permanently fixed displays for rotating artistic presentations that have been created by the children in the courts and arts project. These displays reflect both the hope and the pain children experience in proceedings associated with custody, dependency, and delinquency and serve as a reminder for court visitors and staff of the special needs of children.

● Contact: Phillip J. Crawford, Deputy Executive Officer, 925-646-2886.



Art created by children involved in Contra Costa County's Children, Courts, and Arts Project adorn courthouse walls.

Court-Community Leadership and Liaison Program Superior Court of San Joaquin County

The Court-Community Leadership and Liaison Program is designed to provide the minority and disabled communities in San Joaquin County with representatives who can serve as liaisons with the courts. Liaisons attend the court's Leadership Academy, an intensive 12-week program involving one class per week taught by San Joaquin County judges and other justice system professionals. Liaisons are responsible for answering questions concerning the justice system or for providing a contact within the system to get the question answered. They also serve as representatives for their communities in quarterly meetings with courts to discuss court-related problems or concerns in their communities.

● Contact: Jeanne Millsaps, Executive Officer, 209-468-2827.

Homeless Court Superior Court of Ventura County

The Superior Court of Ventura County's homeless court is a collaborative court and community program. One of the key features of the court is that it provides an alternative sentencing mechanism for homeless individuals to resolve outstanding minor offenses through community service rather than fines. The program works in collaboration with a large number of social service agencies. Special court sessions are scheduled at various homeless advocacy locations in the areas of the county most affected by homelessness. Mental health professionals operating under a grant originating from Assembly Bill 2034 assist the homeless court in providing special housing referrals and access to medication for those with mental health needs.

● Contact: Michael D. Planet, Executive Officer, 805-654-2965.

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Justices of the Court of Appeal, Third Appellate District conduct oral argument at a local high school, with students, teachers, and the public in attendance.



Kleps Awards

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Category 4: Courts With 50 or More AJP

F.O.C.U.S. Program—Monitoring Court Performance Using a Balanced Scorecard Superior Court of San Diego County

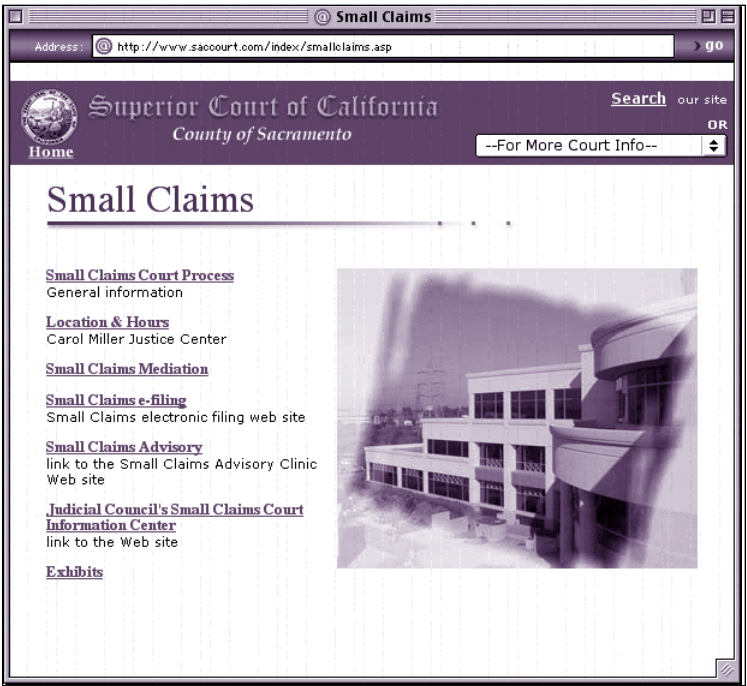
Beginning in July 2000, the Superior Court of San Diego County instituted the F.O.C.U.S. (Finances, Operations, Customers, and Use of Staff) program. Rather than just monitoring traditional fiscal and operational goals, the F.O.C.U.S. program creates a formal and organized data-collection and quarterly review process that also highlights numerous customer service and staffing performance measures in sufficient detail to identify progress, accomplishments, and/or areas of concern. Trends can be identified and tracked, problems more quickly and easily identified, and corrective actions taken and monitored.

● Contact: Marilyn K. James, Chief Evaluation and Planning Officer, 619-615-6393.

Small Claims Electronic Filing Program Superior Court of Sacramento County

The small claims court in Sacramento County implemented a fully automated, paperless case program in 1997 that allows customers to create new case filings by answering a series of questions on computers located at the courthouse. This successful format was modified for the Internet e-filing program. Recognizing that Internet filers would not have access to the staff assistance and small claims legal advisor available at the courthouse, an extensive number of online “help” functions have been included in the program that address program usage, legal questions, and procedural guidance. The program can be accessed through the court’s Web site at www.saccourt.com.

● Contact: Judge Richard K. Park, 916-874-5487.



Juvenile Delinquency Domestic Violence/ Family Violence Court Superior Court of Santa Clara County

The focus of domestic/family violence (DV/FV) court is to address the behavior of an abusive minor and to provide support for the victim. Minors are referred to DV/FV court by juvenile probation at the beginning of a case. Progress is monitored by frequent reviews. To support the court, juvenile probation established a specialized unit to investigate and intensely supervise minors charged with these acts. The unit provides specialized classes on domestic and family violence and assesses offenders for mental health issues. Victims are referred to domestic violence advocacy agencies for help with obtaining restraining orders and, if the victim has a child, help in establishing paternity, child support, and visitation or custody.

● Contact: Jean Pennypacker, Director—Family Resources, 408-299-3232, ext. 214.

Find Arbitrator Mediator Electronically (FAME) Superior Court of Los Angeles County

The Find Arbitrator Mediator Electronically (FAME) project evolved as a solution for providing alternative dispute resolution mediators and arbitrators, also known as “neutrals,” to the public in an efficient, fair, and technologically advanced manner. Through an automated selection process, individuals can review profiles of neutrals or randomly select them. This process frees court users and staff from time-consuming paper-based selection of neutrals.

● Contact: John A. Clarke, Executive Officer, 213-974-5401.

Category 5: Cross-Court Projects That Involve Two or More Courts Working in Collaboration on a Single Project

Center Courts Regional Training Day Superior Courts of Mariposa, San Benito, and Stanislaus Counties

On Saturday, March 17, 2001, Saint Patrick’s Day, approximately 274 employees from 11 courts in Central California attended court-related training sessions at the California State University at Stanislaus campus in Turlock. The training day was dubbed “Operation Leprechaun.” This was the first large-scale collaborative project of the Center Courts, a regional consortium of Central California trial courts. Training grant funds received by the Superior Courts of Mariposa, San Benito, and Stanislaus Counties were pooled to help pay for the training sessions. Training focused on topics such as family law and mediation, sexual harassment, and business writing.

● Contact: Linda Romero Soles, Deputy Executive Officer, Superior Court of Stanislaus County, 209-525-7749.



Representatives from the Superior Courts of Mariposa, San Benito, and Stanislaus Counties helped coordinate training for Center Courts, a regional consortium of Central California trial courts.

Sacramento—Amador Internet/Intranet Superior Courts of Sacramento and Amador Counties

The Superior Courts of Sacramento and Amador Counties’ Internet and Intranet project aims to benefit the public and courts by making information available via the Internet. The Web sites provide more than a thousand pages of information, from recommendations on appropriate court apparel to child-care services and traffic tickets. While other courts provide similar information, the program is unique in that the sites have been created in a way that allows for growth and enhancement through the use of templates, standard fonts, navigation, and quality control. Ownership of the content for both the Intranet and Internet sites is decentralized by providing court staff the tools, infrastructure, and training necessary to maintain their sections of the sites.

● Contact: Lynn Maynard, Director, Management Information Systems, Superior Court of Sacramento County, 916-874-8201; Rachelle Agatha, Executive Officer, Superior Court of Amador County, 209-223-6496.

● For more information on the Kleps Awards, contact Shawn Landry, 415-865-7628; shawn.landry@jud.ca.gov. ■



Superior Court of Los Angeles County helps litigants find neutrals through its Web site.